GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2792
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
BIO-FUEL PROGRAMME IN VILLAGES
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve/integrate Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of Bio-fuel programme (Bio diesel) in the villages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Under its Rural Business Hubs initiative, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been working to promote the cultivation of Jatropha for bio-diesei by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The Government is acting as a facilitator between the State Governments, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Corporate Sector with the help of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Interested PRIs are being introduced to business houses which express their desire to encourage the local community to take up Jatropha cultivation in their respective jurisdiction. Three MOUs in this connection have been signed between D-I Oil (India), on the one hand, and PRIs in the districts of Mewat, Faridabad and Yammuna Nagar in Haryana, on the other, backed up by a letter of intent from Indian Oil Corporation to D-! Oil offering to purchase bio-diesel so produced within the framework of Government`s Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy formulated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The Central Government in association with State Governments, PRIs and the Petroleum Conservation and Research Association (PCRA) has conducted several awareness programmes on the plantation of Jatropha, collection of seeds and extraction of oil for the production of bio diesel. A joint Committee of the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Panchayati Raj and the Planning Commission has been formed with several stakeholders and specialized technical agencies to encourage PRIs in promoting the cultivation of Jatropha for bio-diesel.